



# BIOGRAPHY

## *United States Air Force*

18th Wing (PACAF)  
Office of Public Affairs  
Unit 5141 Box 30  
APO AP 96368-5141  
DSN 634-1509 FAX 634-2344

### **BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES B. SMITH**

Brigadier General James B. Smith is commander, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base, Japan. The wing maintains combat readiness to support air operations tasking as directed by the commander in chief of Pacific Air Forces through PACAF and 5th Air Force. Wing resources include 90 F-15, KC-135, E-3 and HH-60 aircraft, five groups, 24 squadrons and a base population of 24,000. The 18th Wing also provides facilities for U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army and other forces assigned to or transiting Kadena Air Base.

#### **EDUCATION:**

- 1974 Bachelor's degree in military history, US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 1975 Master's degree in history, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
- 1981 Distinguished Graduate, US Naval War College, by correspondence
- 1985 Distinguished Graduate, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama
- 1992 Distinguished Graduate, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 1996 Senior Officer National Security Course, University of Syracuse, Syracuse, New York

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. February 1975 – February 1976, student pilot training, Moody AFB, GA/Laughlin AFB, TX
2. February 1976 – September 1979, T-38 instructor pilot, Laughlin AFB, TX
3. October 1979 – April 1980, student, F-15 training, Luke AFB, AZ
4. May 1980 – March 1982, F-15 pilot, 32nd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Camp New Amsterdam, Netherlands
5. March 1982 – June 1984, training division staff officer and later executive officer, Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, Headquarters, USAF in Europe, Ramstein AB, Germany
6. June 1984 – December 1985, assistant operations officer, 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Holloman AFB, NM
7. December 1985 – June 1987, Chief, Standardization/Evaluation Division, 49th Tactical Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, NM
8. June 1987 – November 1987, Special Assistant, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB, VA
9. November 1987 – August 1989, Operations Officer, 27th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, VA
10. August 1989 – November 1990, Commander, 94th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, VA
11. November 1990 – August 1991, Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations, 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, VA. Also served in this capacity at Dhahran AB, Saudi Arabia
12. August 1991 – June 1992, student, National War College, Fort McNair Washington, D.C.
13. June 1992 – July 1994, Chief of Staff Air Force Chair, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
14. July 1994 – August 1996, Commander, 325th Operations Group, Tyndall AFB, FL
15. August 1996 – July 1998, Vice Director of Operations, Peterson AFB, CO
16. July 1998 – Present, Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena AB, Japan

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Legion of Merit  
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Air Force Commendation Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Combat Readiness Medal with one oak leaf cluster  
Southwest Asia Service Medal

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant	5 June 1974
First Lieutenant	5 June 1976
Captain	5 June 1978
Major	1 October 1983
Lieutenant Colonel	1 May 1987
Colonel	1 January 1992
Brigadier General	1 October 1998

(Current as of October 1998)